

Habitat Happenings



News and Events from **Runge Conservation Nature Center** • May/June 2015



Freshwater Mussels

Freshwater mussels are cold, wet and clammy, and their shells may seem more glamorous than the animals inside. But the animals are as distinct as some of their names: fat pocketbook, pink heel-splitter, fawn's foot, and purple pimpleback.

Most freshwater mussels inhabit clear, free-flowing streams, but they are all descendants of mollusks that lived in salty oceans millions of years ago. Despite their rock-like appearance, they require specific conditions for success. Each species needs clean water of a particular depth and flow, as well as a distinct mix of bottom sand and stones in which to anchor themselves. And the mussels' lifecycle makes a special

demand: each species must have access to a specific "host" animal – most commonly, a particular species of fish – on which its young are incubated. The freshwater mussels' needs are so exact that different species of mussels have been found segregated on opposite banks at the same point on a river.

Freshwater mussels are in serious decline. Nearly 42% of the mussels in Missouri are considered Species of Conservation Concern. Poor water quality, habitat loss, and invasive species are a few of the reasons mussels are in danger. The status of mussels is a warning, which, if heeded, could reverse their decline and save other plant and animal species too.

Volunteers Get The Point!

Very soon, a new “class” will join the current Runge volunteers making our numbers swell to almost 60 volunteers! These individuals understand the point of volunteering – connecting people to nature. They are happy to point visitors to nature center programs or to favorite hiking areas. They point out birds, flowers, trees, insects; nature, large and small. The direction they take is determined by their interests and skills with nature. Regardless the path chosen, our Runge volunteers will get you in touch with nature!



Getting to the point are Bruce Berger, Linda Tremain, Anne Hutton, and Kent Moreland who want to share their interest in nature with you. Get outdoors and explore!

Milestones

200 hours – Kimberlyn Eversman

300 hours – Michaela Kirk, Stephanie Durbin, Crystal Lueckenhoff

500 hours – Samantha Luttrell

2000 hours – Linda Tremain

Lobby Exhibit

Missouri Landscapes

by Neil Heimsoth

This exhibit of oil paintings by Cole Camp artist, Neil Heimsoth, will focus on two of his favorite subjects - the prairies of Benton County and trout fishing.

As with many artists, growing up in a rural environment had a profound influence on Neil's artistic talents. Following his discharge from the U.S. Navy, he pursued his interests through art classes at Drury College and various workshops with nationally-known artists, such as Nelson Shanks and Charles Kingham.



West Wing Exhibit

Junior Duck Stamp

We are proud to display the winning artwork from Missouri's 2014 Junior Duck Stamp Contest. Visit the nature center, during the month of June, to view the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and Honorable Mention entries from this contest.

3-Dimensional Art Exhibit

Groovy Leaves

by Steven Juhlin



Steven Juhlin, artist of Groovy Gourds, creates carved art and decorative pieces from dried gourds. Much of his work is inspired by natural objects and patterns found in Missouri's outdoors. This exhibit features a diversity of Missouri's trees through its leaves and a sampling of other items created with Missouri's nature in mind.

For the Little Ones...

Connect with nature through exciting and age-appropriate opportunities.

Babes In The Woods

Children 0 through 2 years of age are welcome to attend a Babes program with their caregiver. This program is limited to 15 children, plus caregiver.

Little Acorns

Children 3 through 6 years of age are welcome to attend a Little Acorns program with their caregiver. This program is limited to 20 children, plus caregiver.

Little Acorns PLUS

If you have a child that fits into our Babes program AND one that fits into our Little Acorns program this is for you. This program is limited to 20 children, plus caregiver. Please provide the ages of your children when making your reservation.



Discover Nature Programs...

- Help Missourians discover and explore nature
- Provide expert instruction and hands-on activities
- Are available statewide

<http://mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature>



Purple Coneflower

May

Registration begins May 1st.

573-526-5544

Wildflower Power

Blooming colors will be found growing from the ground. Come discover the power of seeing and smelling wildflowers.

Babes In The Woods

May 13 • Wednesday • 10 AM

May 22 • Friday • 10 AM

Little Acorns

May 6 • Wednesday • 10 AM

May 28 • Thursday • 6 PM

Little Acorns PLUS

May 20 • Wednesday • 10 AM

May 26 • Tuesday • 10 AM

June

Registration begins June 1st.

573-526-5544

Prairie Days

In the heat of the summer, the prairies are alive with flowers, insects, birds, and other wild animals. It may be hot out there, but we will learn a lot about the "cool" things on the prairie this month!

Babes In The Woods

June 10 • Wednesday • 10 AM

June 19 • Friday • 10 AM

Little Acorns

June 12 • Friday • 10 AM

June 30 • Tuesday • 10 AM

Little Acorns PLUS

June 24 • Wednesday • 10 AM

June 25 • Thursday • 6 PM

"If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder without any such gift from the fairies, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement, and mystery of the world we live in." Rachel Carson (1907-1964) naturalist, writer, environmentalist

Runge Calendar of Events - May

Get outdoors and experience what nature has provided for you.



Registration begins May 1st.

Programs are free. Call 573-526-5544 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list.

Adventure Birding: Warblers and Other Migrants at Runge

May 9 • Saturday • 8 AM–Noon
Registration required (ages 11 and older)

Runge is the perfect spot to catch a glimpse of those jewels of the bird world, the warblers. These tiny, brightly colored, constantly moving, vibrant singers are a challenge for everyone, but with lots of eyes and teamwork we can enjoy them as they make their journey north. And, of course, there will be many other birds migrating through as well. Come join the fun. Dress for the weather and bring binoculars or borrow a pair of ours.

What's Going On? Mighty Mussels

May 9 • Saturday • 10 AM–2 PM
No registration required (all)
With interesting names like Elephantear, Fawnsfoot, and Threehorn wartyback; Missouri's mussels (aka clams) are anything but boring. By exploring these small, but mighty, mussels through activities and displays, their super powers will be revealed.



Lady Finger mussel



Pimpleback mussel

Puppet Show: Wild Home, Sweet Home

May 9 • Saturday • 1–1:30 PM
No registration required (all)
Black Bear Cub doesn't believe enough people know that young animals are best left in the wild. Join the Runge Puppeteers as Barn Owl, Opossum, and others show that wild Missouri homes are the best homes.

Beginning Map and Compass

May 13 • Wednesday • 6–7:30 PM **OR**
May 14 • Thursday • 6–7:30 PM
Registration required (all)
What is a topographic map? How do you navigate with a compass? Learn the basics of using a map and compass during this workshop. Bring your compass or use one of ours, and be prepared to go outside.

Story Tree On The Trail!

May 16 • Saturday • 1–2 PM
No registration required (all ages)
Visit the nature center and meet a volunteer naturalist eager to share a nature story or two with you. You will be delighted with the stories and activities.

Nature's Needlers

May 21 • Thursday •
10:30 AM–Noon **OR** 6–7:30 PM
Registration required (ages 18 and older)

Have you seen the mysterious little umbrella plants in the forest? Join us for the fifth quilt block in the "Woodland Tapestry" series, the Mayapple. Also enjoy sharing tips and projects with other quilters.

Read and Discuss: Last Child in the Woods

May 23 • Saturday • 9:30–10:30 AM
Registration required (adults)
Are you concerned about children spending too much time indoors? Richard Louv looked at kids who are disconnected from the outdoors in his book *Last Child in the Woods*. Read his book and join other readers talking about his discoveries.

What's Going On? Think of a Beaver!

May 23 • Saturday • 10 AM–2 PM
No registration required (all)
What do you think of when you hear the word, BEAVER? Maybe you think it's the largest rodent in Missouri or it's an animal that mates for life and can live to be 24 years old. We think big teeth that never stop growing. Want to know more? Join us for beaver activities and crafts. At 11AM, *Leave It To Beavers*, a PBS video, will be shown.

The Runge Conservation Nature Center is located one-third mile north of Hwy 50 on Hwy 179, at 330 Commerce Drive, Jefferson City, Missouri.

BUILDING HOURS:

Tuesday–Saturday: 8 AM–5 PM
Thursday: 8 AM–8 PM
Closed Sunday & Monday

TRAIL HOURS:

Open daily 6 AM–9 PM

<http://mdc.mo.gov/regions/central/runge-nature-center>

Runge Calendar of Events - June

Get outdoors and experience what nature is sharing with you.

Registration begins June 1st.

Programs are free. Call 573-526-5544 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list.

Adventure Birding: Monitor Bird Nesting Boxes

June 13 • Saturday • 8–11 AM

Registration required (ages 11 and older)

Get a close-up look at bird nests, eggs, and/or young as we help the Runge volunteer crew monitor the bird nesting boxes at Runge and the Conservation Department's Central Office complex. Find out more about how to identify bird nests, keep accurate records, and care for your bird boxes and the birds that nest in them. Dress for the weather and bring binoculars or borrow a pair of ours.

Design with Nature in Mind: Water Coloring

June 13 • Saturday •

9:30 AM–Noon **OR** 1:30–4 PM

Registration required (women, ages 18 and older)

The sights of spring – butterflies and flowers – will be captured as you try your hand at watercolor painting. Leaders will take you through this unique way of painting and each participant will go home with one handmade note card. Weather permitting, time will be spent outdoors.

Story Tree On The Trail!

June 13 • Saturday • 10–11 AM

No registration required (all ages)

Visit the nature center and meet a volunteer naturalist eager to share a nature story or two with you. You will be delighted with the stories and activities.

Teen Club: Canoeing

June 16 • Tuesday • 8 AM–5 PM

Registration required (ages 12–18 years)

Space is limited, so register early. We will spend the day paddling, floating, and exploring one of Missouri's nearby rivers. Runge will provide transportation to and from the nature center, plus the canoes, paddles, and personal flotation devices. Pack a lunch and personal items in a dry sack. Participants must fill out a permission form.

Nature's Needlers

June 18 • Thursday •

10:30 AM–Noon **OR** 6–7:30 PM

Registration required (ages 18 and older)

Is the fox really as crafty as it's reputed to be? Find the answer to this and learn other facts about the fox and the part it plays in the forest ecology. This will be the focus of our sixth quilt block in the "Woodland Tapestry" series.

Let's Go Fishing!

June 26 • Friday • 6–8 PM

No registration required (all)

Have you ever wondered what types of fish inhabit our Runge pond? Here's your chance to find out! Join us for an evening of "catch and release" while relaxing and enjoying the warm summer air. Bring your own pole and bait or use some of ours. Ages 16 and older will need a valid fishing permit.

What's Going On?

Fishing Fun

June 27 • Saturday • 10 AM–2 PM

No registration required (all)

Fishing is a favorite pastime for many Missourians. Explore the underwater world of Missouri's game fish through activities and displays. Join us as we feed the aquarium fish at 11AM. We may have our fishing pond open to cast a line or two so have your fishing permit ready. Catch and release only/rods and bait provided!

Puppet Show:

Wild Home, Sweet Home

June 27 • Saturday • 1–1:30 PM

No registration required (all)

Black Bear Cub doesn't believe enough people know that young animals are best left in the wild. Join the Runge Puppeteers as Barn Owl, Opossum, and others show that wild Missouri homes are the best homes.



Get your free copy at the Runge Conservation Nature Center.

Free Fishing Days June 6 and 7

This is a great time to introduce family and friends to the joys of fishing. No permits or prescribed area daily fishing tags are required for this weekend.

Find MO Fish App - mdc.mo.gov/node/15421

Backpacks

Get outside and explore

Scout Packs

Runge Conservation Nature Center is happy to offer assistance in meeting requirements for some nature-related scout badges. We have a variety of scout packs available with activities and information to assist you in your efforts. Please contact Becky at 573-526-5544 ext. 3408 for more information or to reserve one of the following packs.

Wolf Cub: Elective #13-Birds

Bear Cub: Achievement #5-Sharing Your World with Wildlife

Webelos: Naturalist and Forester Pack(s). Your choice of packs or a combination pack that has both badge requirements.

What's Going On?

Every Saturday At Runge

10 AM–2 PM

No registration required (all ages)

Runge Conservation Nature Center offers exploratory tables, activities, and/or crafts every Saturday throughout the year. Stop in to see what adventure awaits you during our "What's Going On?" at the nature center.

Calling All Hikers

Exploring the great outdoors

Runge has three volunteer-led programs designed to provide opportunities for people of all ages to hike Missouri trails and learn about our plants, animals, and natural communities. Each month we'll meet at the nature center and drive to one of Missouri's choice hiking spots and hike one or two of the best trails. Some transportation is provided, but carpooling may be necessary. Bring water, wear comfortable hiking shoes, and come dressed for the weather.

Half-Day Discovery Hikes

May 30 • Saturday • 8 AM–Noon

Registration begins May 1st.

Registration required (ages 8 and older - children must be accompanied by an adult)

Location: Hart Creek Conservation Area, near Hartsburg.

Trail Length: approximately 2 miles

Terrain: Steep hillside plus gravel road.

Focus: Cory Gregg, Resource Forester with the Missouri Department of Conservation, will share his knowledge of trees.

June 20 • Saturday • 6–9:30 PM

Registration begins June 1st.

Registration required (ages 8 and older - children must be accompanied by an adult)

Location: Scrivner Road Conservation Area, located in Cole County, near Russellville.

Trail Length: 2 miles

Terrain: Moderate inclines, obstructions, and/or loose rocks.

Focus: Summer night life in Missouri. Bring flashlight and bug spray.

Midweek Trekkers

May 20 • Wednesday • 8 AM–5 PM

Registration begins May 1st.

Registration required (adults)

Location: Labarque Conservation Area, located in Jefferson County

Trail Length: 3 miles

Terrain: Significant inclines, obstructions, and/or loose rocks.

Notes: Bring lunch.

June 17 • Wednesday • 8 AM–5 PM

Registration begins June 1st.

Registration required (adults)

Location: Mark Twain State Park, located in Monroe County.

Trail Length: 6 miles

Terrain: Moderate inclines and/or occasional rocks/roots.

Notes: Bring lunch.

The Hiking Club

May 23 • Saturday • 8 AM–5 PM

Registration begins May 1st.

Registration required (adults)

Location: Ha Ha Tonka State Park, located in Camdenton.

Trail Length: 7.5 miles

Terrain: Significant inclines, obstructions, and/or loose rocks.

Notes: Bring lunch.

June 27 • Saturday • 8 AM–5 PM

Registration begins June 1st.

Registration required (adults)

Location: Scrivner Road Conservation Area, located in Cole County, near Russellville.

Trail Length: 6 miles

Terrain: Slight inclines and/or few rocks/roots.

Notes: Bring lunch.

Conservation Kids' Club

A club created for kids 6–12 years who love to explore nature and learn about wildlife.

Conservation Kids' Club is a club created for **kids 6–12 years** who love to explore nature. When you make your reservation at 573-526-5544, please provide the name of each member, their age, and the number of siblings attending the Little Acorns program to help us better prepare. Thank you.

Stream Team #667 Clean UP

May 19 • Tuesday • 6:30–8 PM *Registration required (May 1 through May 15)*

Dear Conservation Kids' Club Member,

You are invited to our annual stream team clean-up on Wear's Creek. Let's wade in the water, pick up trash, and scoop for "live" aquatic insects, fish, or amphibians. Then take a break with me and drink our famous MUDDY FLOAT!

P.S. Don't forget to wear old clothes and shoes to get wet and muddy.

Naturally,



Bubba, the tree frog

[No June Meeting – Bubba, the tree frog, goes to Michigan to hear the ethereal sound of loons. See you in July!](#)

Parents/Guardians! While big brother/sister attends Conservation Kids' Club, your preschooler (3 through 6 years of age) can be involved in a program at the same time. A preschool program will be available for siblings of Conservation Kids' Club members. **Please limit your Little Acorns reservation to one program each month.**



MDC Free Regional Workshops

Discover Nature:

Women's Basic Shooting Academy

Join the staff of the Missouri Department of Conservation for an exciting and educational experience in shooting sports. Women, ages 18 or older, are invited to a special "shooting academy" to learn the basics of firearms safety, shooting techniques, equipment, target shooting, hunting, and much more. Classroom lessons will be followed by mentored shooting at local shooting ranges. There is no cost for this program. All participants will have the opportunity to obtain the Missouri Hunter Education certification. Discover Nature programs are designed to help Missourians explore nature and master outdoor skills together.

June 3 • Wednesday • 5:30–8:30 PM (*This program will consist of five (5) sessions – June 3 and 17, July 1, 15, and 29.*)

Location: MDC Regional Office, 3500 East Gans Road, Columbia, Missouri.

Required Registration: Contact Brian Flowers at 573-815-7901 ext. 3388 or Brian.Flowers@mdc.mo.gov by May 20.

Summer Camp Program

Enjoy the outdoors.

Camp F.I.R.E.

Fun In Resource Exploration

Are you ready to get FIREd up about being outdoors this summer? CAMP F.I.R.E. is a day camp focused on helping you learn how to have fun in our natural world.

This year's camp will focus on Missouri's wetland resources. In addition to jumping into the wetland community, we will teach you fishing skills, basic canoe safety and techniques, river navigation, and more. You will put your learning to use catching fish and canoeing a mid-Missouri stream.

On Saturday morning, we invite your favorite big people (parents/caregivers) to Runge so you can teach them some of your new-found skills. More details are listed to the right. Hope to see you at Camp!

DATE

June 2-6, 2015

TIME

Tuesday – Friday • 9 AM - 3 PM

Saturday • 9 - 11 AM

WHO

Camp F.I.R.E. is open to youth 9 through 12 years of age.

HOW

A completed permission form is your registration for the camp. Registrations will be accepted through May 4th. Fill out this form, or go online at <http://mdc.mo.gov/regions/central/runge-nature-center> and search for PERMISSION FORMS, or call us at 573/526-5544 and we will mail you one.

LIMITS

Camp F.I.R.E. is limited to 30 youth. Due to the popularity of this camp, a lottery drawing will be held to determine participants. Successful campers will be notified by May 6th.

I give (name) _____ (age) _____, (name) _____ (age) _____
permission to participate in CAMP F.I.R.E sponsored by Runge Conservation Nature Center, June 2–5 • 9 AM - 3 PM and June 6 • 9 –11 AM.
A complete schedule of events will be mailed to you prior to the beginning of camp.

Please list any special considerations, including allergies or medications for your child(ren), that our staff need to know about.

I understand that in case of an emergency a nature center staff member will contact (name) _____,
who can be reached at (phone #) _____.

Parent/Caregiver Signature: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Shirt Size (adult sizes) please circle: small medium large x-large

Note: Daily attendance is expected and parent/legal guardian participation on Saturday, June 6, is strongly encouraged.

Return completed application to Runge Nature Center, CAMP F.I.R.E., PO Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102 no later than May 4th.